



The Federal Diary

by
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'Lame Duck' Session Expected to Get Bills For U. S. Pay Boosts

Half a dozen bills to boost the salaries of Federal workers will be introduced in the "Lame-Duck" session of Congress that convenes today.

Most of them will propose a flat increase of \$630 annually for each classified and postal employee, and a percentage boost for per diem employees. The four lower postal grades also would be abolished under the bills that have been drafted.

The AFL employee union, through its potent Government Employees Council, is spearheading the drive for a big increase in Federal pay. A big bloc of congressional members, Democrats and Republicans alike, has been asked to sponsor the AFL pay bill.

If he does it at all, Chairman Johnston of the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee will introduce it "by request." He feels that the bill demands the impossible; that the Government workers will be fortunate to get an average pay boost of \$300. On the House side, Chairman Murray of its Post Office and Civil Service Committee definitely won't sponsor the AFL bill. He'll wait and see what the Senate does on the pay issue.

Several members of the House committee, such as Rhodes (D., Pa.) and Buckley (D., Ill.), are likely sponsors of the AFL bill.

Several other employee organizations have drafted pay-raise bills which they hope to persuade key members of Congress to sponsor.

The "lame-duck" session won't approve any general pay-raise legislation, and don't you count on it. The employee groups, however, want to get the pay-raise ball rolling now, so they will have a running start when the new Congress convenes in January.

RFC: The Reconstruction Finance Corp. has given out lay-off and downgrading notices to several hundred employees and more of them are in the mill. The agency is making a strenuous effort to find other jobs for its surplus people—either by transfer to other Federal agencies or in private industry.

NOTES: G. Lyle Belsley will join the National Production Administration to head up its business advisory committee. He's assistant administrator of Federal Security and formerly a top official in the War Production Board. . . . Lieut. Ruth V. Schmidt today will take over as information officer of the Naval Ordnance Laboratory at nearby White Oak, Md. . . . Earl Byram of Civil Service, is helping the new Subversive Control Board get set up for business. . . . Albert B. Ray, an employee of Navy's Bureau of Ships, wears the distinguished civilian service award for solving many logistics and personnel problems. Cash awards for worthy suggestions have been given these bureau employees: Anna J. Ashcom, Eva C. Kraus, John A. Weber, and Nicholas B. Michel. . . . Lawrence J. Wainwright is odds-on favorite to be elected national vice president of the AFL's American Federation of Government Employees.

HIGHER: Federal employment in the executive branch here during October showed an increase of 3400 to reach an over-all total of 222,200, the largest single increase in any month for several years. Nation-wide, the increase was 34,000 to a total of 2,128,500 civilian employees. As expected, the Army, Navy and Air Force reported the largest increases both here and nationally.

JOB NEWS: Civil Service will open tests in about two weeks for junior agricultural assistants, \$3100 to start; occupational analysts, informational specialists, and engineers, all to pay \$3825 to \$6400 to start. Information jobs are open in State's Voice of America offices in New York City. All branches of engineering will be covered in the new engineer test.

At nearby Fort Meade, Md., exams are open for building-laborer, \$1.09 an hour; sheet metal worker, \$1.49; plumber, \$1.42; steamfitter, \$1.49, and laundry worker, 86 to 95 cents an hour. . . . At the Naval Powder Factory, Indian Head, Md., these tests are open: Blacksmith, \$1.51 an hour; boilermaker, \$1.54; laborer-cleaner, 88 cents; laborer, 98 cents; carpenter, \$1.48; pipefitter, \$1.54, and powder and explosive worker, \$1 an hour.